

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets for Figures 1-17 are attached to this reply. Applicants assert no new matter has been introduced by way of these replacement sheets and that these replacement sheets are in accordance with 37 CFR §1.84.

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 9-13, 17-29, 31-36, 38-42, and 51-58 were pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 9-13, 17-29, 31-36, 38-42, and 51-58 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also by way of this reply, claims 59-103 are added. Accordingly, claims 59-103 are now pending in the present application. Claims 59, 73, 87, and 97 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 53, 72, 87, and 97.

Drawings

Replacement sheets for Figures 1-17 are attached to this reply. Applicants assert no new matter has been introduced by way of these replacement sheets and that these replacement sheets are in accordance with 37 CFR §1.84.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-13, 17-29, 31-36, 38-42, and 51-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,401,079. By way of this reply, claims 9-13, 17-29, 31-36, 38-42, and 51-58 are cancelled and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 59-103 are added by way of this reply. Applicants respectfully assert no new matter has been added by way of these additions as support for the new claims may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0110]-[0114] of the published specification, in Figure 3 and Figures 7a-c, and in the originally filed claims.

Applicants respectfully assert the cited art fails to teach or suggest at least, "...determining a first HR service and a second HR service of the plurality of HR services affected by the event... executing the first update task to update the first HR service based on the event, wherein executing the first update task comprises sending the data item in the first format to the first HR service; and executing the second update task to update the second HR service based on the event, wherein executing the second update task comprises sending the data item in the second format to the second HR service", as recited by new independent claims 59, 73, 87, and 97. Accordingly, independent claims 59, 73, 87, and 97 are allowable. Claims 60-72, 74-86, 88-96, and 98-103 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 59, 73, 87, and 97. Accordingly, claims 60-72, 74-86, 88-96, and 98-103 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 37202/107001; 990015).

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Respectfully submitted,

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